



### Sunday Envelope Collection

The amount received in  
**Ferns** for the week was **€503.50**.  
 The amount received for **Ballyduff**  
 for month of March was **€331.00**  
 The amount received from **Cloogue** for the  
 month of January **€953.80**  
*Thank you for your generosity.*

### Rediscovering Ancient Connections

Wexford Tourism Ambassadors for the  
 Rediscovering Ancient Connections Project  
 are hosting a Céili in the Courtyard Bar &  
 Restaurant in Ferns on the 22nd of April at  
 19:30. This is an open and free event to the  
 local community. All welcome. See  
[www.abartaheritage.ie](http://www.abartaheritage.ie) for further details.

### Ferns Parish Office & Shop

Large selection of Communion  
 Cards, Beads, Prayer Books and gifts  
 now in stock.

THE HOOK OF FAITH THIS WEEK  
 On this 'Divine Mercy Sunday' we  
 again proclaim the infinite and beauti-  
 ful mercy of God that is our final  
 hope. It is a gift that invites us to see it  
 from God's side as giver and not just  
 our side as receivers. We have an arti-  
 cle that identifies why many vocations  
 programmes fail and another that  
 helps preachers and teachers proclaim  
 the resurrection with its full power and  
 impact. Fr Jim Cogley provides us  
 with brief but powerful reflections on  
 the Easter message. We continue with  
 the series 'The Creed in Slow Motion'  
 that unpacks the Apostles Creed and  
 finally, we include more light and in-  
 spiration from the pen of Lorcan Bren-  
 nan. Check out these and other re-  
 sources available at  
[www.thehookoffaith.com](http://www.thehookoffaith.com)

### ST. AIDAN'S PARISH INFORMATION

**Very Rev Paddy Cushen. P.P.** Tel: 053-9366152 / Mobile: 087 2387559.

E-mail: [frpaddycushen@gmail.com](mailto:frpaddycushen@gmail.com) **Eir Code: Y21 N9 W7**

**Assistant: Very Rev. Pat Stafford , 086 234 4674**

**Parish Office:** Tel: 053-9366514. E-mail: [fernsparish@gmail.com](mailto:fernsparish@gmail.com) **Eir Code: Y21 X5 W9**

**Opening Hours:** 9am-1pm & 2pm-4pm Mon-Fri

**Weekend Mass Times:** Vigil Mass, Saturday 6.15pm Sunday 8.30am & 11.00am

Weekday Mass Times: Monday to Saturday day 9.30am.

**Confessions:** Every **Saturday** after **9.30am** Mass & First **Thursday** after **9.30am**  
 Mass and on request.

### ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH, BALLYDUFF

**Weekend Mass Times:** Vigil Mass, Saturday 7.30pm **Eircode: Y21 FD 73**

### ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, CLOOGUE

**Weekend Mass Time:** Sunday 9.45am

**Eir Code: Y21 CD 96**

**Reconciliation Services:** Lent and Advent. **Baptism:** By appointment.

**Marriage:** At least three months notice must be given.

**Ferns St. Vincent de Paul:** Tel: 086 7219303

**Safeguarding Officers:** Denis Kinsella 087 2465720, Bernidina Roche 087 4455393

Ballyduff: Alan Byrne 086 8135149. Cloogue: Mary Skelton 087 6984703

### St. Aidan's Church, Ferns

We have a live Webcam Streaming for all Masses. The camera is focused on the  
 Altar & Sanctuary. You can watch Mass & Services live from St. Aidan's Church by going to  
 YouTube and searching for Ferns Church or on Facebook at Ferns Church Live or on our  
 Parish Website **[www.fernsparish.ie](http://www.fernsparish.ie)**



# Ferns Parish Newsletter



Vol. 17. No. 35

15th & 16th April 2023

2nd Sunday of Easter

### Divine Mercy Sunday

#### *A Saint for Dark Times*

It's perfectly understandable: Thomas is having trouble believing that Jesus has returned to be with his friends again. The disciples, who witnessed Jesus' arrest, torture, death and burial, are now talking about having seen Jesus in the flesh again. It sounds impossible. Thomas was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, so of course he is doubtful.

Thomas' moment of doubt earned him the nickname 'Doubting Thomas', and I sometimes think this is a little unfair. Or rather, I feel that Thomas' wobble of faith does not necessarily cast him in a negative light – it makes him easier to relate to. He is grieving after the death of his master and friend. He is not ready to hear the words of comfort and consolation offered by the others, when they tell him 'We have seen the Lord.' His pain is too deep. He can't believe it, or won't believe it, until he experiences it for himself. And when he does finally encounter Jesus, an agonising eight days later, his declaration of faith is swift: 'My Lord and my God!' We can almost hear the relief and joy in this exclamation.

We all know that life can be painful and messy at times. It can be hard to hang onto our faith when we are in pain, or grieving, or anxious. It might be difficult to accept the assurances of others that God is with us and will help us through it. We might also struggle to pray. In dark times, sometimes we just can't see the light. Thomas is a saint for those times of darkness and doubt. In our darkest days, may we, like Thomas, encounter the healing presence of the Risen Christ.

### Second Sunday of Easter

#### 16th April 2023 • Divine Mercy Sunday

'Peace be with you' was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were frightened? For whom have you been an agent of peace?

Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubts and questions played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments?

Note the way Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He took him where he was and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of a teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you on to a deeper knowledge of some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher?

'Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed'. That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having had to prove every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar manner?

### **Mass Time & Intentions This Weekend**

**15th & 16th April 2023**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15pm:** Paddy Gethings, Clobemon & Breda Nolan, Rosemary Heights, Toby Kirwan, Coolbawn

**8.30am:** Kathleen O'Connor, Pairc Mhuire

**11.00am:** The O'Neill Family, Newtown  
**BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Mike & Elizabeth Jordan, Coolnaleen

Tommy Browne, Clonee

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:** Bridie Skelton, Ballintore

### **Mass Time & Intentions Next Weekend**

**22nd & 23rd April 2023**

#### **FERNS CHURCH**

**6.15 pm:** Bridget Byrne, The Barracks, Effernogue

**8.30am:** People of The Parish

**11.00am:** Nancy Hanlon, Coolbawn (Month's Mind)

#### **BALLYDUFF CHURCH**

**7.30pm:** Martha & Bob Cleary, Kilcloran & their daughter Pauline Doyle Phyllis McDonald, Camolin Park (Month's Mind)

#### **CLOLOGUE CHURCH**

**9.45am:**



### **Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**

With Solemn Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. St. Aidan's Church Ferns Sunday 16th April @ 3pm.  
Celebrant: Very Rev. Paddy Cushen P.P.  
Confessions during devotions.

**22nd & 23rd April 2023**

#### **Ministers of the Word**

**6.15pm:** Mary Cash

**8.30am:** Carmel Doyle

**11.00am:** Maura Kelly

#### **Ministers of Holy Communion**

**6.15pm:** Maura Bernie & Mary Fortune

**8.30am:** A Volunteer

**11.00am:** Eleanor Hawkins & Mary Sinnott

### **The Diocese of Ferns will be holding Safeguarding Information Sessions throughout May 2023**

(Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Reps are required to attend full day and refresher courses)

These sessions are **particularly aimed at staff and parishioners** involved in any capacity in the life of the church; secretaries, sacristans, cleaning teams, choir leaders, catechists, altar server supervisors, flower arrangers, readers, collectors etc. However, **all who are interested are encouraged to attend.**

This short session (approx. 90 minutes) will give you an insight into safeguarding in the context of the Catholic Church, and through the lens of our faith and community.

**Topics will include: What is safeguarding? Why do we safeguard? Who safeguards?**

**Recognising, Responding, Reporting & Recording knowledge, suspicions and concerns of abuse**

**Wednesday 10th May**, Talbot Hotel, Wexford at 7.00pm

**Wednesday 17th May**, Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy at 7.00pm

**Wednesday 24th May**, Brandon House Hotel, New Ross at 7.00pm

**Wednesday 31st May**, Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey at 7.00pm.

**Free to attend, no booking required.**  
For more information please contact: Emma Fitzgerald on 053 9174972 or [safeguarding@ferns.ie](mailto:safeguarding@ferns.ie)

### **A Date for your Diary: May 12th/13th. Conversations with Women in the Bible.**

A day to explore insights from their stories and God's transforming presence in their lives. Speaker: Sr. **Therese Fitzgerald** SND. Venue: Ballyvaloo Centre, Blackwater, Co. Wexford - Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> Or Pembroke Hotel, Kilkenny - Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>. More details later/ check out [www.ssji.org](http://www.ssji.org)

### **Annual Trip to Knock Adoration Apostolate**

The annual Pilgrimage of the Group to Knock is on the weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year.

The bus as usual departs from Clonard Carpark at 7am on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with stops in Enniscorthy at 7.30am, Ferns 7.45 am and Gorey at 8.00am

The price including bus and one night stay is €150. (Spaces limited)

For more information and booking please contact 087 6419960.

### **FERNS & DISTRICT ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

The monthly meeting will be held in the Pastoral Centre on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 2.30 p.m. Active Retirement Association helps retired people to enjoy a full and active social life. Our club, founded and active since 2004, welcomes new members to join. Ferns 'Elite Runners', who do a fun-run for charity each year, generously contributed to our club recently. To Loran Murphy and fellow runners a sincere thank you.

### **Communion Dates 2023**

**Ballyduff**

29th April at 11am

**Tombrack**

6th May at 11am

**Ferns**

20th May at 11am

### **Sincere Sympathy**

Is extended to James Fitzpatrick and relatives on the death of his mother Sheila Fitzpatrick (nee Jackman), Coolbawn, Ferns. R.I.P.

**May God grant her eternal rest and console the bereaved in their grief.**

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

**A – Ask** for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B – Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C – Completely trust** in Jesus. God wants us to know that our reception of the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

[www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org)

### **Irish Catholic Price Increase**

As and from the 1st of May, The Irish Catholic will go up from €2.50 to €3.00. That will mean anyone who has paid for the year will need to pay an additional €18 to cover from May 5th to Dec.29th.

### **Trocaire Boxes Collection**

We ask you to please now return your Trócaire Boxes. We ask you to be mindful of those in the Third World who are in need of our help, support and generosity. A little will go a long way to help those in need. Your money will be most welcome in whatever form you decide to give. If possible we ask you to please convert the smaller coins you contribute to notes or large coins, this would be a tremendous help and would be deeply appreciated, when counting the money.

**The amount collected so far is €890.00. Grateful thanks.**

### **BAPTISMS**

We welcome into the faith **Ann Térésa Moorehouse** who was baptised recently.